

Know
the
facts.



HOW WE TALK ABOUT ADDICTION MATTERS

Much of the language people use to talk about addiction can be biased and hurtful, leading to discrimination and social exclusion. Both of which can keep people from getting the treatment they need. Changing your language can reduce the negative stereotypes around people with this disease. Don't know where to start? Check out the chart on the back.



See Beyond The Addiction



These photos do not represent individuals suffering from substance use disorder or living in recovery.

SAY THIS

Person with substance use disorder

Disease

Person living in recovery

Person arrested for a drug violation

Substance dependent

Medication is a treatment tool

Had a setback

Maintained recovery; substance-free

Negative drug screen

Positive drug screen

NOT THIS

Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuser

Drug habit

Ex-addict

Drug offender

Hooked

Medication is a crutch

Relapsed

Stayed clean

Clean

Dirty drug screen